

A Pleasant new Ballad of *Tobias*, wherein is shewed what  
wonderful things befall to him in his Youth; and how he wedded a young Damosel that  
had had Seven Husbands, but never enjoyed their Company, being all slain by an evil Spirit.  
To a pleasant New Tune.



**I**n Nineve old Toby dwelt,  
an aged man and blind was he,  
And much affliction he had felt,  
which brought him unto misery:  
He had by Anna his true Wife,  
one onely Son and eke no more,  
Which was the comfort of his life,  
and he by him did let great store.  
He brought him up so virtuously,  
in true obedience and in awe,  
And every day he did apply,  
to fear the Lord and keep his Law:  
Upon a time it came to pass,  
he call'd his Son to him with speed,  
And thus to him these words did frame,  
my son, quoth he, thou know'st my need.  
Thou must unto Gabael go,  
to Raguel's house in Media Land:  
for I did lend him long ago,  
ten Talents on his only hand:  
My father dear Tobias saith,  
at your command straight will I go,  
How shall I get the money paid,  
seeing the man I ne'r did know.  
Take then the writings here with thee,  
which is sufficient to be seen:  
And get a guide to go with thee,  
since thou the way hast never been.  
A guide Tobias soon had got,  
an Angel in the shape of man,  
Which thing he did not know God wot,  
the Lord had so appointed then.  
Tobias with his blessed guide,  
went on his journey thus with speed,  
Until they came to Tigris side,  
at the fair flood they did abide:

Tobias would go wash him there,  
by reason of the Summers heat,  
A mighty fish put him in fear,  
which leapt out of the waters deep.  
Cut up the fish the Angel saith,  
and keep the Liver, Heart, and Gall,  
To do the same be not afraid,  
great cures there shall be done withal.  
When this was done away they went,  
and coming near their journey's end,  
We'll lodge to night the Angel said,  
with Raguel thy fathers friend.  
He hath a Daughter fair of face,  
and also of a virtuous Life;  
And when we come unto that place,  
I'll speak that she may be thy Wife:  
Why Azarias then (quoth he)  
for so they did the Angel call,  
I wis she is no Wife for me,  
Swift Death hath all her Lovers fall.  
Seven men to her have Married been,  
which in her Love did take delight:  
When her bed-chamber they had seen,  
they had not lived half the night.  
A wicked Spirit loves her so,  
he will not suffer any man,  
With her into the bed to go,  
but works his death do what they can.  
The Angel said, good courage take,  
for so it shall not be with thee,  
for such perfumes I will thee make,  
the wicked Spirit away shall flee.  
To Raguel's home away they run,  
where Sarah met them fair and bright,  
And after l'utations done,  
she brought them to her fathers sight.

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cheray's list.





Great cheer there was and down they sat  
 And all for young Tobias sake,  
 And after long and pleasant chat,  
 betwixt them two a match they make;  
 By Moses Law they married were,  
 the brides bed-chamber prepar'd likewise:  
 when young Tobias came in there,  
 the tears fell down from Sarahs eyes.

A Pan of coles he brought with him,  
 the Fishes Heart and Liver there;  
 within the fire he did cast in,  
 which cast a smoke every where:  
 And by that sweet and pleasant smell,  
 the wicked spirit was displac't:  
 within that room he could not dwell,  
 whereout he went in haste.

In bed they laid the beautifuls Bride,  
 the chamber door was shut therefore;  
 young Toby lying by her side,  
 whom he did think to see no more.  
 And therefore Raguel in the night,  
 for him before had made a Grave:  
 And to his wife he wept and said,  
 there is no means his Life to save.

One of the Maidens send (quoth he)  
 to see how all the matters stand,  
 And if so be that dead he be,  
 he shall be buried by my hand.  
 This Maiden sayful news did bring,  
 Tobias is alive (quoth she)  
 when Raguel heard of this thing,  
 he did rejoyce exceedingly.

For Joy he made a solemn feast,  
 the Feasts fourteen Days they kept,  
 There came many a friendly Guest,  
 in sorrow now no more they slept.

Azarius went straight way,  
 unto the feast Gabael brought;  
 Rejoycing at his Marriage-day,  
 and paid the Money that he ought.

But yet old Toby and his wife,  
 did all this while in sorrow dwell,  
 They thought their Son had lost his life,  
 and nothing could their Grief spell,  
 His aged Mother every day,  
 did watch the High-way side:  
 And for his welfare oft did pray,  
 no meat nor drink she could abide.

But when the wedding ended was  
 young Toby with his lovely Bride;  
 To Nineve did home wards pass,  
 with Goods and Chattels on each side,  
 But Toby and his Angel bright,  
 before his wife made best to go:  
 for to prepare all things aright,  
 his lovely Bride to welcome he.

His Mother watching in the way,  
 full soon espied her tender Son:  
 Rejoycing at that happy day,  
 she told her husband he was come:  
 Whereat old Toby tumbled out,  
 for he was blind and could not see,  
 Young Toby with the Fishes Gall,  
 rub'd both his eyes immediately.

Whereat the whiteness of his eyes,  
 incontinent did fall out quite:  
 So that before he did arise,  
 he had again his perfect sight:  
 Great joy there was and down they sat,  
 young Toby told his father all:  
 Who went to meet his lovely Bride,  
 with joy and mirth that was not small.